

# Fuel for Thought

January 2004

The 939th Air Refueling Wing, Portland, Ore.

Vol. 2, Issue 1

Lewis gives reasons

## Deployment called success

By Lt Col Kenneth Lewis

939th Operations Group Commander

Fourteen-months ago the first KC-135R arrived at Portland. Since that day the men and women of the 939<sup>th</sup>

have worked together to enable the unit to conduct operations for the new mission. Let me be one of the first to say the 939<sup>th</sup> has proven itself to be one of the most capable air refueling wings in the United States Air Force. All the hard work and the headaches of training, equipping, manning, and funding have paid off. The culture has changed. The unit has moved from a very capable and proud rescue unit to a very successful and still proud air refueling team. I see operations and maintenance working more closely than

ever before. I see more sorties being generated and flown than ever before. I see a worldwide presence and impact by the members of the 939<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing.

The highlight of this presence so far is the deployment of four KC-135R aircraft and approximately 200 personnel to Incirlik Air Base Turkey. The mission: support OEF and OIF airlift operations. The C-17 and C-5 receiver aircraft we support are supplying everything from troops to bombs and Band-Aids to help fight the war on terrorism. If these aircraft do not receive their fuel on time every time the whole supply process is slowed and, in some cases, comes to a complete stop.

Our role is critical. We enable the supply train to flow.

The 939<sup>th</sup> found itself more than prepared for the challenge. The unit took over and quickly set up 24-hour operations. The 939<sup>th</sup> generated and flew an average of five sorties per day and off-loaded four-and-a-half million pounds of fuel to 68 receivers over a 35-day period. Portland maintenance, support personnel and crews did not miss a single air refueling.

Operations were expanded in the middle of the tour to include three active duty jets and personnel from Mildenhall Air Base, England. The plus up was to cover a large surge in air refueling requirements. In addition to this demanding tasking, life support, intel, crew communications, admin, LRS, operations staff and maintenance supported two

Mildehall jets and four crews who were conducting operations in support of NATO exercise TACTICAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM.

On the lighter side, this operation saw its landing fees put

to good use. We managed the consumption of 400 cases of beverages, 750 Brats, 125 bags of chips, 150 pounds of ribs and chicken, nine gallons of chili, three gallons of cheese dip and one turkey. The turkey was supplied through the heroic efforts of Joel Kinnunen who beat the local favorites to win the Christmas 5K fun run. We also ate 200 pounds of wild boar donated by a farmer who took pity on five American hunters who lacked the skill and prowess to down the animal themselves. The daily social call was a hit.

This deployment had several high points for me personally.

Before I left I told the staff that I would consider Portland a success if I found myself bored. Well, I did more shopping on this TDY than I have done in my entire career. Not only did this make my wife happy but it also shows that all the training and hard work have paid off. Portland knows how to run a tanker operation. Another area worth mentioning is the fact that the Portland unit did not turn down one single request from Tanker Airlift Control Center – nor did we miss one single air refueling. This is important to me personally because the units we replaced were not as flexible. They did not accept additions and changes that caused complications in aircraft or aircrew scheduling. Our ability to flex to the requirements allowed the TACC to adjust delivery schedules and increase the volume of extremely important war materials into the theater. Without the flex they have to reprioritize cargo which leads to further logistical problems and ultimately fewer supplies for the troops actually doing the fighting. Probably the greatest personal satisfaction comes from just watching the people in the 939<sup>th</sup> come together to get the job done.

It is a tribute to everyone in the 939<sup>th</sup> that deployed activities went so smoothly. The unit has melded together to operate under a single purpose with a single mindset. I am witnessing a unit that not only works hard together but also enjoys socializing together. The camaraderie, hard work, and dedication to the mission will make Portland an outstanding air refueling wing.



*Lt Col Kenneth Lewis, 939th Operations Group Commander, on the job at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.*

# Congratulations

## Military

### Meritorious Service Medal

Lt Col Dana G. Difford  
Maj Karen L. Magnus  
CMSgt (Ret) Steven D. Logan  
CMSgt Maurice R. Savoie  
SMSgt (Ret) Linda J. Hanna  
MSgt William C. Draper, Jr.  
MSgt Shawn E. Payne  
MSgt Vickie J. Tomberlin  
TSgt Scott C. Saunders



939ARW  
939ARW  
939MXG  
939MXS  
939CF  
939CF  
939OSF  
64ARS  
64ARS

### Air Force Commendation Medal

Lt Col Dana G. Difford  
Maj Karen L. Magnus  
Capt Melinda S. Bernard



939ARW  
939ARW  
939ARW

### Air Force Achievement Medal

TSgt Kevin G. Cole  
TSgt Edward L. Wink  
SrA Lucas A. Hernandez



939AMX  
939LSS  
939OSF

## Civilian Employees

### Promotions

Michael J. Clarke  
James M. Gross, Sr.

939SE  
939MXS

### Notable Achievement Award

Julia Altman  
Genise Dance

939FM  
939FM

### New ART Appointments

James M. Gross, Jr.  
Jesse B. Ryholt  
Kent M. Halland  
Brian J. Flott

939MXS  
939CP  
939MSS  
939MXS

Ann M. Trimm

939MXS

### Civilian Appointments

Heidi L. Buzikowski  
Gregg S. Kininmonth

939MSS  
939SVMP

### Welcome

Joseph W. Baptiste  
Duane L. Hinkle  
Joel A. Holt  
Maria T. Mattingly  
James P. Mattingly

939AMXS  
939FM  
939LRS  
939AMXS  
939MXS

### IDEA Program Award

Clyde Nordgren

939MXS

## ***Fuel for Thought***

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for the men and women of the 939th Air Refueling Wing, Portland, Ore. Contents of Fuel for Thought are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office of the 939th Air Refueling Wing (AFRC), Portland IAP, Portland, Ore. Photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise noted. Submissions are appreciated. The mail address is: 939 ARW/PA, (Attn: Fuel for Thought), 6801 NE Cornfoot Road, Portland IAP, Portland, OR., 97218-2797.

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939 ARW Commander

Col. Mark A. Kyle

Chief of Public Affairs

Maj. Karen Magnus

Public Affairs Specialist/Editor/Admin

Roger A. Edwards



photo by MSgt Greg Thress

*Lt Col Dana Difford, 939th ARW Executive Officer, is presented with both the Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal by Col Mark Kyle, Wing Commander, in ceremonies held during the December UTA.*



photo by MSgt Greg Thress

*Maj Karen "Jack" Magnus, 939th ARW Public Affairs Officer, is presented with both the Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal by Col Mark Kyle, Wing Commander, in ceremonies held during the December UTA.*



photo by Maj Karen Magnus

*SSgt Michael L. Koenig, 939th Financial Management, is presented with the Air Force Achievement Medal by Col Mark Kyle, Wing Commander, in ceremonies held during the December UTA.*



photo by Maj Karen Magnus

*TSgt Craig S. Butler, 939th Financial Management, is presented with the Air Force Commendation Medal by Col Mark Kyle, Wing Commander, in ceremonies held during the December UTA.*



The Reserve Officers Association announced the selection of Capt Charles A. Knapp, 939th Services Flight, as the Air Force Reserve Outstanding Junior Officer of the Year for 2003. Capt Knapp will be formally recognized at the Reserve Officers Association mid-Winter conference in Washington, D.C.





U.S. Air Force Photo

*TSgt Donna M. Crone, 939th ARW Command Post, is presented with the 110 Percent Award by Col Mark Kyle, Wing Commander, in ceremonies held during the December UTA.*



U.S. Air Force Photo

*SSgt Johanna Henry, 939th ARW Equal Opportunity, is presented with a Letter of Appreciation and a Layette for her expected baby, by Col Mark Kyle, Wing Commander, in ceremonies held during the December UTA.*



U.S. Air Force Photo

*TSgt Michael Burke (left) and SSgt Timothy Burke both members of the 939th ARW Command Post staff, are presented with the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with valor device, by Col Mark Kyle, Wing Commander, in ceremonies held during the December UTA.*



U.S. Air Force Photo

*TSgt Craig T. Pfister, 83rd Aerial Port Squadron, is presented a plaque by CMSgt Dale Barrett, 939th ARW Command Master Chief, in ceremonies held during the December UTA. The plaque is for TSgt Pfister's selection as Wing NCO of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2003.*



U.S. Air Force Photo

*MSgt David P. Craig, 939th ARW Communications Flight, is presented a plaque by CMSgt Dale Barrett, 939th ARW Command Master Chief, in ceremonies held during the December UTA. Maj Malinda M. Beggs, CF Commander, looks on. The plaque is for TSgt Pfister's selection as Wing Senior NCO of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2003.*



U.S. Air Force Photo

*SMSgt Linda Hanna and MSgt William Draper, both members of the 939th ARW Communication Flight, retired in ceremonies held on December 7, during the December UTA.*

*MSgt Ernest A. Ozsvath, II, of the 939th Maintenance Operations Flight shakes hands with Capt Brett Duax, Flight Commander, following his re-enlistment in ceremonies held during the December UTA.*



U.S. Air Force Photo



U.S. Air Force Photo

*Master Sergeants Linda Kaufman, Roy Routledge and Vickie Tomberlin of the 939th ARW Operations Group and the 64th Air Refueling Squadron, retired in ceremonies held during the December UTA. Lt Col Steven Franklin, Operations Group Deputy Commander, and MSgt Jason Beach of the 64th ARS, participated in the ceremony.*



# CFC effort nets \$16K

"Wow!!! 2003 was an awesome year for the Combined Federal Campaign," said Capt Sheralee F. Gardner, 939th Air Refueling Wing CFC honcho. "Including donations, the auction, the chili cook-off, the pancake breakfast and our other activities; the Wing raised \$16,359.88.

"The big news is that not only did we exceed what we raised for CFC last year," she said, but that we've set a new record. In 2001 we collected \$14,143, a huge amount, because of 9/11. We did better by more than \$2,000 this year."

*The rate of participation based on military and civilian numbers is 10 percent.*

"I want to send a huge THANKS to everyone who baked the pies and other goodies for the sale and auction," said Capt Gardner, "and to Capt Sandra Knapp who got NIKE to donate to the cause. The auction alone raised almost \$1,100.

"That money, along with all the money raised in our other activities, and some of the money pledged as donations, goes directly into our Wing Foundation for internal administration and use as needed."



photo by SFC Gavin McIlwenna

The newest "Winter" camouflaged sentry for "Fort Overend" poses with co-workers. They are (left to right) TSgt Roco Pepe, NCOIC Overend Gate Ops, SPC Matthew Endersby, SPC Nicholas Broadasynski (Kneeling), SPC Christopher Campbell (Kneeling), SSG Kathy Wilburn, PFC Adam Wilson and SSG Kenneth Judkins (Kneeling). The picture was taken at Overend gate on 31 December 2003, after several inches of snow had fallen. It was Army training designed to make the enemy think there are extra camouflaged sentries on base.



photo by MSgt Gregory A. Thress



photo by MSgt Gregory A. Thress

Santa ran across the Grinch on December 6 (left), and both bummed a ride with the 142nd Fighter Wing Fire Department, to the 939th Air Refueling Wing's annual Christmas party where they were guests of honor. Fire Department employees Rick Haddy (above left, left) and Craig Thomas put the duo on board their fire truck and delivered them to building 310 for the party. MSgt Theresa Duval and her daughter Ariana (above right) simply enjoyed the food, fun and fellowship.



## 939th goes to Turkey

Thirteen point two hours and ten time zones later and Portland, Oregon was left behind for Incirlik, Turkey, where the 939<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing supported Operation Enduring Freedom from November 25, 2003 to January 5, 2004. Approximately 200 people from the wing participated during that time from operations, maintenance, medical, logistics, Intel, chaplain, life support, admin, computer, crew communications, etc.

Pictured from left to right: members departing for Turkey, maintenance along with their mascot dog over in Turkey waiting for a thunderstorm to pass so they could return to the flightline, Major Stu Sullivan flying a refueling mission over the Black Sea, SRA Geoffrey Corey (boom operator) preparing to connect to a C-17 needing fuel, a successful connection and refueling with the C-17, blocking in one of our KC-135s after landing at Incirlik, Doc "O" (Col Ostrander, 939th Medical Squadron commander) in his clinic at Incirlik, sleep where you can (SMSgt Linda Edwards grabs a much needed nap) when you are in the air for more than ten hours, happy reunion upon returning home to Portland for, CMSgt Reuben Evans and his wife.



story & pictures by  
Maj Karen Magnus



## Wing delivers 15.9 tons of Xmas chow Donations total 126.5 tons over 13-years!



Members of the 939th Air Refueling Wing and the Sunshine Division of the Portland Police Department worked together to unload food that members donated to the Share Because You Care Christmas Campaign after a convoy of military vehicles delivered the load to the Portland collection point. After unloading the wing's donations, a ceremony was held in which Police Sergeant Wayne Kuechler, Portland's Sunshine Police Division Commander, presented SMSgt Charles "Buddy" Byrd a plaque for his long support of the Share Because You Care project. Sergeant Kuechler and SMSgt Byrd (below) pose for a group photograph with Portland Police and wing representatives.

photos by Roger Edwards



photo by Maj Karen Magnus

Commanders took a turn on the chow line before the annual 939th Christmas party, serving up a luncheon that included prime rib, honey glazed ham, chicken, sweet potatoes, stuffing, mixed vegetables and a selection of pies. Col Mark Kyle, Wing Commander(left); Lt Col Elaine Barron, Mission Support Group Deputy Commander; and Col Richard A. Gano, Mission Support Group Commander served more than 300 individuals.



## Hart uses ASL to interpret ceremony



U.S. Air Force Photo

*MSgt Rocky F. Hart recently used his skills in American Sign Language to interpret a funeral ceremony for deaf family members.*

"Since my parents are both deaf, you might say that American Sign Language is my mother-tongue," said MSgt Rocky V. Hart, 83rd Aerial Port Squadron First Sergeant and 939th Air Refueling Wing Honor Guard Non-commissioned Officer in Charge. "It's the language my brothers and I learned first – and one that I still feel quite natural using."

Sergeant Hart was recently able to use his language skills to assist a Portland family in a time of need; and to bring some very positive exposure to the Air Force Reserve.

"We (the 939th ARW Honor Guard) had been requested at a veteran's funeral," he said. "It turned out that the veteran's daughter was deaf and that the American Sign Language interpreter who had been hired to translate the service for her was not going to be able to be there.

"The funeral home staff was scrambling to try to cover the event; the family and the daughter were unhappy and it was just about time for the ceremony to begin when I found out what the problem was and offered my services as translator.

"So in addition to my duties as a member of the Honor Guard, I did a word-for-word translation of the ceremony as it was occurring," said Sergeant Hart.

"It wasn't any trouble for me," he said, "and it helped the daughter participate more fully in the ceremony – it helped her through a tough time. Anytime I can help out like that, I'm glad to be there."

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

# January 19, 2004

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Letter from the Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963**

The time is always right to do what is right.

Philanthropy is commendable, but it must not cause the philanthropist to overlook the circumstances of economic injustice which make philanthropy necessary.

Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.

The hottest place in Hell is reserved for those who remain neutral in times of great moral conflict.

I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.

Occasionally in life there are those moments of unutterable

fulfillment which cannot be completely explained by those symbols called words. Their meanings can only be articulated by the inaudible language of the heart.

There can be no deep disappointment where there is not deep love.

"If a man is called to be a streetsweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the host of heaven and earth will pause and say, here lived a great streetsweeper who did his job well."

**Martin Luther King, Jr., Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?, 1967.**

"Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity."

This information can be found at [www.thekingcenter.com](http://www.thekingcenter.com)



U.S. Air Force Photo

*Maj Jerry Parrish and MSgt Susan Murray, both of the 939th Air Refueling Wing Staff Judge Advocate's Office, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year as they decorated their desert legal office at Al Udeid Air Base in Saudi Arabia.*

## Save Medical Receipts for Possible Reimbursement

*(Editor's Note: The following story was originally published in the Air Force Times.)*

By Deborah Funk, AF Times staff writer

National Guard and Reserve members are urged to save their receipts for medical bills that may be covered under some of the new health care benefits approved by Congress but not yet put in place.

Provisions of the 2004 Defense Authorization Act, signed into law Nov. 24 by President Bush, grant earlier access to Tricare for certain Reservists and extend Tricare coverage for longer periods when they leave active duty.

If Reservists are called up to support a contingency on activation orders with delayed effective dates, they'll get Tricare coverage for themselves and their families beginning on the issue date of the orders or 90 days before the active duty is to start, whichever is later.

Another new program extends transitional health benefits to Reservists when they are demobilized and to active-duty members when they separate from service. Members and their families will have health care coverage for 180 days after demobilization or separation. Previously, Tricare coverage had continued for only 60 days for those with less than six years of service and 120 days for those with more than six years.

Rear Adm. Richard Mayo, deputy director of Tricare Management Activity, said Reservists called to active duty or deployed in support of a contingency operation should save "health care-related receipts, claims and explanation-of-benefit forms" dating from Nov. 6, 2003. That paperwork will be needed if a reservist is deemed eligible for retroactive reimbursement from the Defense Department, Mayo said.

Defense officials will contact eligible reservists by mail and explain what services are covered and how to submit claims.



photo by Roger Edwards

*Regular Reservists, ARTS, civilian employees and active members belonging to the 939th Air Refueling Wing, all contributed to the Christmas 2003 Giving Tree Campaign, providing Christmas gifts that helped more than 500 foster families in the Portland area give more than 2,000 foster children a brighter, happier Christmas. Thanks.*





photo by Maj Karen Magnus

Col Kyle presented Army National Guard members with Certificates of Appreciation during the December UTA, expressing the Wing's thanks for their efforts in supporting our security. They were de-activated in December. They are SSgt Darrell Kuntz (left), SPC Harland McWatters, SPC Jason Young, PFC Mark Webb, SPC Kriston Loree and PFC Josh Sloan.

## Service Members Get New Rights

(Editor's Note: The following item originally appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer, December 9, 2003.)

WASHINGTON - Members of the armed forces will get new legal protections in dealing with landlords, creditors and insurers under legislation [an amendment to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act] that the House passed yesterday and sent to President Bush.

Service members permanently sent to new duty stations or deployed for at least 90 days could terminate housing leases without penalty. Active-duty personnel and National Guard and Reserve members deployed overseas or called up for at least 180 days also could terminate car leases without penalty. Their families living in dwellings with rents up to \$2,400 a month could not be evicted for non-payment without a court order, as long as the service member is deployed away from home.

Now, only those military families with monthly rents up to \$1,200 enjoy that benefit.

Active duty members would also be granted 90-day stays for appearances in civil court proceedings.

Another provision caps interest rates at 6 percent for debts service members incurred before being activated or deployed. And it raises from \$10,000 to \$250,000 the maximum life insurance coverage the government will protect from default for non-payment of premiums for Reservists and Guard members while they are on active duty.

"With hundreds of thousands of our military personnel

stationed around the world today in the war on terrorism, it is imperative that Congress do all that it can to ease the burdens that they and their loved ones face back at home," said Rep. Chris Smith (R., N.J.), chairman of the House Veterans Committee.

[For more for information go to <http://www.gop.gov/committeecentral/docs/bills/108/1/bill.asp?bill=hr100>]



## the back page



photo by Roger Edwards

### Give Blood

*TSgt Neal Therrien was one of 29 Air Force Reservists and Guardsmen who donated blood to the Portland Chapter of the American Red Cross on December 2. The Red Cross conducts blood collection drives on the installation about once a quarter according to MSgt Dana Furnia, the 142nd Medical Squadron Health Technician responsible for scheduling the event. "We normally have around 50 donors give blood," she said, "but only had 27 during the last collection. The Holidays and deployments cut into the numbers."*

*The next drives are scheduled for February 17 and May 11. Make your plans to donate now and help save lives.*

## Ask Sergeant Look Sharp

Question of the month...

Can I get a tattoo?

Unauthorized (content): Tattoos/Brands anywhere on the body that are obscene, advocate sexual, racial, ethnic, or religious discrimination are prohibited in and out of uniform. Tattoos/brands that are prejudicial to good order and discipline or of a nature that tends to bring discredit upon the Air Force are prohibited in and out of uniform.

Inappropriate (military image): Excessive tattoos/brands will not be exposed or visible (includes visible through the uniform) while in uniform. Excessive is defined as any tattoo/brands that exceed 1/4 of the exposed body part and those above the collarbone and readily visible when wearing an open collar uniform.

Failure to observe these mandatory provisions and prohibitions by active duty Air Force members, USAFR members on active duty or inactive duty for training and ANG members in Federal service, is a violation of Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

Reference: AFI36-2903AFRCSup1  
Chapter 2 – Table 2.5 Pg 89 Item: 6

Did you know...

New Name Tag - for the service dress uniform, a lot of members have been inquiring on how to wear it. The new nametag is to be worn on the wearer's right side of the service dress jacket with the bottom of the nametag parallel to the bottom of the ribbons. It should be centered between the sleeve seam and the lapel.

Old Name Tags. Laminated ultramarine blue plastic material with white, block-style letters engraved on the plastic and a clutch-type fastener. The tag is 3 3/16 inches long and 5/8 inches wide with 1/4-inch lettering. Make no deviations to the name tag (that is, emblems, flags, change in size or color). EXCEPTIONS: Use smaller letters to fit name within standard tag length and half-size letters if the name has more than one capital letter such as MacMANN. Non-physician providers, i.e., physician assistants, obstetrics and gynecological nurse practitioners, pediatric nurse practitioners, primary care nurse practitioners, and independent duty medical technicians (only when performing IDMT duties) wear two-line name tags to identify their profession. Services personnel wearing organizational uniforms may wear their rank designation on the same line as their last name, i.e., SSGT BRANCH.

Reference: AFI36-2903AFRCSup1  
Chapter 5 – Para 5.3 - Pg 112

Acronym of the month...

MCSS - Military Clothing Sales Store  
Reference: AFI36-2903AFRCSup1  
Attachment 1 - Pg 125

Term of the month...

Optional Clothing Items - Approved uniform clothing items (other than mandatory clothing items) approved for wear by all Air Force personnel.  
Reference: AFI36-2903AFRCSup1  
Attachment 1 - Pg 126

Questions, Comments Suggestions,  
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